



**ICRC**

# **Challenges in Responding to the Use of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Effective assistance that would benefit a substantial portion of survivors of the use of a nuclear weapon is presently not available at national level and not possible at international level**



**Establishing humanitarian response capacities requires an understanding of the unique challenges to be faced and investment in planning, resources and logistics needed to meet these challenges**



**Challenges arise from the immediate needs that will follow a nuclear weapon explosion and from the implications of the event for the delivery of humanitarian assistance**



**The number of people likely to be in need will be enormous, sizeable areas will be rendered inaccessible for some time, and specific safety concerns of responders will have to be considered**



**Local and, in most instances, national capacities are likely to be overwhelmed and many issues involved in the international deployment of capacities have not yet been addressed**



**There will be huge demands for human and material resources to meet at least some humanitarian needs and these resources will need to be suitable and available in a timely fashion**



**No organisation on its own will have sufficient resources to ensure an effective response and cooperation amongst multiple actors will need to be based on a similar understanding of what is required**





**A harmonised response approach involves knowing the subject-matter, understanding one's own and others' roles, being familiar with standard practices, and having ready access to suitable resources**



to conclude, as before:

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